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Assembly California Legislature



JARED HUFFMAN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, WATER, PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
NATURAL RESOURCES
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE NO.3
ON RESOURCES

September 24, 2010

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Letter of Support for the San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan Implementation, Phase I

Dear Chairman Bosco:

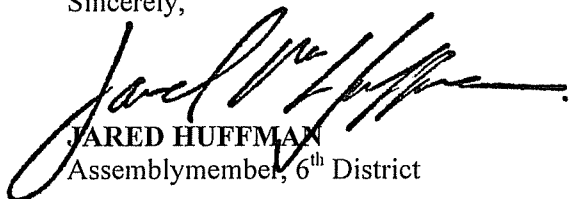
I am writing to express my support for Marin County's funding request for \$98,335 to the State Coastal Conservancy to support Phase I implementation of the San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan. The proposed project would fund a technical assistance program for private properties owners to guide and design improvements they can make on their own lands in the San Geronimo Creek watershed in western Marin County to protect and restore critical salmon habitat.

The project is the first phase in the implementation of the San Geronimo Creek Watershed Salmon Enhancement Plan, whose preparation was partially funded by a Conservancy grant in 2008. Many of the Plan's final recommendations describe actions and avoidance measures that private landowners can implement on their properties. I am pleased to report that many of the landowners in the San Geronimo Valley have shown themselves eager and willing to move forward with implementation of these recommendations, but to date they lack the technical expertise to do so. This project brings together the technical expertise of UC Cooperative Extension and the County's Public Works Department to support the community's strong commitment to stewardship of the watershed.

As you are well aware, the Central California population of coho salmon is listed as endangered under both the U.S. Endangered Species Act (2005) and California's Endangered Species Act (2005). Implementation of this project would fulfill important restoration objectives in both the State and Federal Recovery Plans for coho salmon. Further, the project will serve as a model for community-based watershed restoration, which can then be applied throughout Marin County in other important watersheds, critical to salmon restoration.

Thank you for giving this request your serious consideration.

Sincerely,


JARED HUFFMAN
Assemblymember, 6th District

September 16, 2010

Mr. Doug Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612



SAN GERONIMO VALLEY STEWARDS
P.O. BOX 276 - Lagunitas, CA 94938
EMAIL: INFO@SGVSTEWARDS.ORG

RE: Letter of Support for the San Geronimo Valley
Salmon Enhancement Plan Implementation, Phase I

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We are writing to express our support for Marin County's funding request, to the Conservancy, to support Phase I implementation of the San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan (SEP). The preparation of SEP was partially funded by a Conservancy grant in 2008

The San Geronimo Valley Stewards (SGVS) is a volunteer organization working with homeowners to develop a cooperative plan to restore our Valley creeks and the salmon population. We have been able to bring hundreds of homeowners forward to take part in discussions, workshops, and planning sessions regarding the SEP. As a community we possess a strong ecological consciousness. We are very aware of our environment, wish to keep as much of the wild Valley nature as possible, and we are willing to volunteer on projects we believe are valuable to our community's environment.

Of the recommendations included in the SEP the two highest priorities were identified as (1) "Establish and support a community process to guide implementation of the plan", and (2) "Develop an In-stream Habitat Enhancement Implementation Program. We believe that the proposed project is an important first step to achieving these two recommendations.

The proposed project involves the provision of technical assistance to landowners, and we recommend including community relations training for organizations proposing projects, in salmon habitat enhancement projects in the San Geronimo Creek watershed in western Marin County.

Many of the SEP's recommendations describe actions and avoidance measures that can we can implement on our properties. The subject project brings together the technical expertise of UC Cooperative Extension and the County's Public Works Department to support our community's strong commitment to stewardship of the watershed.

We are resolute in our belief a community based programs will make the critical difference and we aren't alone in this opinion. The 2009 Nobel Prize winner in economic science, Dr. Elinor Ostrom, has focused her life's work to studying how to best achieve success in protecting and managing the natural resources through community based programs. Doctor Ostrom's research identifies design principles for structuring a local base resource management system and one of these principles is that the self-determination of the community is recognized by higher-level authorities;

The proposed project will foster self determination by the community as well as further communication and trust building needed to establish a culture of cooperation. The Phase I implementation of the San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan will be a model for community-based watershed restoration; a model that can be applied throughout Marin County in other important watersheds, critical to salmon restoration.

The Central California population of Coho salmon is listed as endangered under both the U.S. Endangered Species Act (2005) and California's Endangered Species Act (2005). This implementation project fulfills important restoration objectives in both the State and Federal Recovery Plans for Coho salmon.

Thank you for giving this request your full consideration,

Taylor

R. Taylor Hamblett
On Behalf of the San Geronimo Valley Stewards



California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
DONALD KOCH, Director



September 27, 2010

Mr. Doug Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Letter of Support for the San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan
Implementation, Phase I

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express the California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) support for Marin County's funding request for the Phase I implementation of the San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan. The proposed project will provide technical assistance in salmon habitat enhancement planning to landowners in the San Geronimo Creek watershed in western Marin County. The project is the first phase in the implementation of the San Geronimo Creek Watershed Salmon Enhancement Plan, partially funded by a Conservancy grant in 2008. Many of the Plan's final recommendations describe actions and avoidance measures that private landowners can implement on their properties. Many creekside landowners in the San Geronimo Valley are eager and willing to move forward with implementation of these recommendations but lack the technical expertise to do so. This project brings together the technical expertise of UC Cooperative Extension and the County's Public Works Department to support the community's strong commitment to stewardship of the watershed. Project designs and on-the-ground implementation projects that result from this planning effort will receive review and possible funding and permitting from the DFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program.

The Central California Coast population of coho salmon is listed as endangered under both the U.S. Endangered Species Act (2005) and California's Endangered Species Act (2005). This project fulfills important restoration objectives in both the State and Federal Recovery Plans for coho salmon.

Phase I implementation of the San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan will be a model for community-based watershed restoration which can be applied throughout watersheds in Marin County and the State.

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Please contact me at (707) 299-9299 or gseymour@dfg.ca.gov if you need further information.

Thank you for giving this request your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Gail Seymour
Supervisor, Watershed Restoration and Fisheries Management